



# Black Daggers

## Parachute Demonstration Team Support Manual

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND  
FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA 28310-5000

United States Army Special Operations Command Parachute Demonstration Team

Dear Sponsor,

As the team leader of the Black Daggers, let me be the first to thank you for considering the USASOC Parachute Team to support your event. We are honored and will do everything we can to contribute to the success of your event. To do this, prior planning is absolutely necessary.

There is a one-time show charge of \$2500 to perform at your event. This charge covers per diem for the team for the duration of your event. The show sponsor will also be responsible for lodging and rental vehicle costs. If you are a military sponsor, we can travel off of your line of accounting (LOA). You will also be responsible for a round-trip ticket for an advance representative to arrive at your location two days prior to the rest of the team's arrival. This representative has the authority to make decisions on my behalf. His or her job as the advance representative is to finalize coordination and prepare for the full team's arrival.

Finally, thank you again for requesting the U. S. Army Special Operations Command Parachute Team to perform at your event. We look forward to meeting the people at your event and letting them see their U.S. Army in action. Please do not hesitate to call us on our Team Phone (910) 907-2370, or contact my event coordinator, SFC Greg Couch at: cell (910) 364-1493, or email: [couchj@soc.mil](mailto:couchj@soc.mil)

SSG Dewey Vinaya  
USASOC Parachute Team  
Team Leader  
(910) 364-1841 Blackberry

# Table of Contents

---

<b>I. General Information.....</b>	<b>4</b>
A. Mailing Address.....	4
B. Contact Information .....	4
C. Demonstration Information Packet (Appendix A).....	5
D. Web/Internet.....	5
<b>II. Support Requirements .....</b>	<b>5</b>
A. Show Fee .....	5
B. Accommodations .....	5
C. Transportation.....	6
D. Aircraft.....	7
E. Coordination.....	8
F. Advance Representative .....	8
G. On-site Coordination Meeting.....	8
H. Weather.....	8
I. Medical .....	9
J. Ground Support.....	9
K. VIP/Parking Passes .....	9
<b>III. Demonstration Jumps .....</b>	<b>10</b>
A. Opening Ceremony (U.S Flag) .....	10
B. Mass Exit .....	11
C. Canopy Relative Work (CRW) .....	11
D. Military Combat Equipment .....	11
E. Night Pyrotechnics.....	11
F. Narration.....	12
<b>IV. Advertising and Public Affairs.....</b>	<b>12</b>
A. Social Engagements.....	12
B. Media, Advertising, and Public Affairs.....	12

## **I. General Information**

### **A. Mailing Address**

Parachute Demonstration Team  
BLDG P-3262 Black Hawk Drive  
Simmons Army Airfield  
Fort Bragg, NC 28310

### **B. Contact Information**

- 1. Team Leader – SSG Dewey Vinaya**  
Phone: (910) 364-1841  
Email: [dewey.vinaya@soc.mil](mailto:dewey.vinaya@soc.mil)
  
- 2. Event Coordinator – SFC Greg Couch**  
Phone: (910) 364-1493  
Email: [couchj@soc.mil](mailto:couchj@soc.mil)
  
- 3. Tandem Coordinator – SSG Noah Watts**  
Phone: (910) 580-3328
  
- 4. Video Production Coordinator – SSG Travis Weathers**  
Phone: (661) 609-6475  
Email: [weather@soc.mil](mailto:weather@soc.mil)
  
- 5. Office – (910) 907-2370**
  
- 6. Fax – (910) 907-2368**

### **C. Demonstration Information Packet (Appendix A)**

1. The Demonstration Information Packet is a consolidated list of information for your event outlining the specifics of the show. Please fill this document out with as much detail as possible using the support manual as your guide.
2. When filling out this information, please be sure to type or print legibly with correct spelling as the information in this packet may be used to highlight our appearance at your event.

### **D. Web/Internet**

1. Website – <http://www.soc.mil/PAO/Black%20Daggers.html>
2. Facebook – [www.facebook.com/blackdaggers](http://www.facebook.com/blackdaggers)

\*Please visit our website for details about the team and sample documents.

## **II. Support Requirements**

### **A. Show Fee**

The fee for the “Black Daggers” to perform at your event is \$2500. This fee covers the cost of the show and does not include other requirements covered later in this document.

For civilian sponsors, payment is due payable by check made out to “U.S. Department of Treasury” and can be picked up by us at the show site or mailed to:

Parachute Demonstration Team  
BLDG P-3262 Black Hawk Drive  
Simmons Army Airfield  
Fort Bragg, NC 28310

For military sponsors, a Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR) may be used for payment. To complete this transaction we will need to get your unit budget person and ours in contact to work out the details.

### **B. Accommodations**

The show sponsor must provide lodging for the team. Reservations should be made under the name “USASOC Parachute Team”. This includes the room

2 days prior for the advance person. To facilitate preparation the advance representative will provide the names of the team members to the hotel upon arrival and will need to pick up all room keys for the incoming team.

The rooms must be located in the same building if the hotel facility has multiple buildings associated with its property. Rooms need to be single-occupancy; non-smoking rooms with telephones. The hotel accommodations must also have a business/media center in the same building as the team is staying. This is an important part of the advance representative's requirement to accomplish his or her mission on site. If the lodging is on a military post and doesn't provide the business and media center in the same building as the team member's rooms and cannot house the team in the same building, the sponsor is responsible for off post accommodations that have the business/media center available. Please select accommodations that have elevators or with all rooms on the first floor. The team travels with a great deal of equipment and heavy bags. Rooms should be located adjacent to one another as much as possible to facilitate coordination between team members. The total number of rooms required is dependent on the number of team members supporting the event with the maximum being 12.

In some cases, we are able to provide aircraft support from the USASOC Flight Detachment. If we are bringing aircraft with pilots and mechanics, accommodations are also the responsibility of the sponsor. Details regarding the number of aircrew vary depending on the type of aircraft and time of flight, but do not routinely exceed 3 hotel rooms. This will be coordinated as it arises.

### **C. Transportation**

Sponsors will provide transportation at no expense to the parachute team. The vehicle requirements for our team are two (2) large SUV's (Suburban-size) and one full-size sedan. This reflects the minimum support capable of transporting our personnel and large amounts of equipment. One of the vehicles must be available to the advance representative upon arrival. We cannot accept tactical military vehicles or GOV's (if they have rules prohibiting GOV use off post). The sponsor must provide assurances that vehicles are covered under insurance provided by rental agencies, the show sponsor, or by other means. All vehicles must have no restrictions and have access to the flight line area.

If we are bringing one of our various aircraft, we will need an additional 2 vehicles for the aircrew to use as needed. Their timelines and ours usually do not match; therefore, they need their own mode of transportation.

## **D. Aircraft**

**\*\*Per Army Directive 2010-08, the Army will not support request for Army aviation public affairs missions involving aerial demonstrations in the civilian domain. In rare occasions, DA grants requests for exceptions to this policy for exceptional, high-impact events. This policy remains into effect until modified or rescinded.\*\***

The USASOC Demonstration Parachute Team does not have organic aircraft support but may be able to acquire aircraft to support your event. If desired, we need to start coordinating arrangements as soon as possible. Remember, there is no guarantee that the team will be able to provide an organic aircraft. Overall responsibility to furnish the team with a suitable aircraft for the demonstration jumps lies with the sponsor. The type of aircraft required depends on the number of demonstrators. The smallest aircraft the team will operate from is a 2-seat Cessna-182. Please understand that small aircraft platforms such as the Cessna-182 severely limit the types of show we can perform for you. Preferred jump aircraft includes Air Force cargo planes such as a C-130, C-141, and C-17; however, U.S. Army, National Guard, Coast Guard, or Navy UH-60, UH-1H, and CH-46/47 helicopters or similar aircraft will suffice. If you cannot locate an aircraft, please contact the team's event coordinator as soon as possible for advice on how to locate an aircraft through a civilian skydiving operation. If using U.S. Air Force aircraft, coordination may be arranged to pick the team up at Pope Field (formerly Pope Air Force Base), Fort Bragg, or within a reasonable distance of Fort Bragg (within 35 miles). In addition to transportation to and from the show site, with approval from the flight crew the aircraft may also serve as the jump platform.

## **E. Federal Aviation Administration Waivers (If Applicable)**

Our team has a member assigned to conduct coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). He/she is responsible for filing the appropriate 7711-R paperwork and NOTAMs, alleviating the show sponsor of this responsibility. We will provide you with a copy of the waiver once we arrive at the show site. If your event is conducting its own FAA coordination, we will need a hard copy of the waiver once it is complete to ensure it meets all of our requirements.

If you plan to do the 7711 paperwork, please contact the team before submitting it for FAA approval so we can make sure all our requirements are addressed. Once approved, the team will need a copy of the 7711 for our records and to file the NOTAM for your event.

## **F. Coordination**

Our Public Affairs Office will contact you to confirm our support for your request. Please direct question concerning coordination of your event to the USASOC Parachute Team by calling our event coordinator SFC Greg Couch at (910) 364-1493, or by email at [couchj@soc.mil](mailto:couchj@soc.mil).

## **G. Advance Representative**

One of our team members will arrive at your show location two days prior to the event. This representative is an integral part of the demonstration team. He/she will work to ensure your expectations are met and your show is successful. This member will need a round trip flight from Fayetteville, N.C., to the major airport of nearest your show. The show sponsor bears the cost of the flight. Upon arrival, we ask that he/she be met at the airport by your event point of contact (POC) assigned as the liaison between the parachute team and your staff. Your POC plays a key role in assisting us to ensure our demonstration meets your expectations. To facilitate the planning process, this POC should have decision-making authority or direct contact with someone who does. This POC should be dedicated to the team for the duration of the event. Additionally, the parachute team's advance representative will need one of the vehicles for travel to and from the show site and hotel accommodations.

## **H. On-site Coordination Meeting**

Our advance representative is responsible for identifying potential on-site issues such as FAA clearances, a final review of the drop zone(s) and other requirements that might interfere with our participation in your event. We ask that a POC involved with the event be available to meet with the advance representative to work out any issues that may arise during the walk-through.

## **I. Weather**

We can control many things; unfortunately, the weather is not one of those things. We are required to operate within the FAA limits, requirements set for by the U. S. Parachute Association, and other governmental organizations. Typical weather that can hinder our operations are clouds and wind. The team's minimum parachute opening altitude is 2,000 feet above ground level (AGL). Surface winds cannot exceed 20 MPH. Limitations to demonstration jumps may vary based upon ground hazards and turbulence. The team leader will make the determination if a demonstration may proceed or be cancelled, but we will make every effort possible to execute as planned. Please know that even if the weather is great over your event location it may



not be where our aircraft will take off from. That would then be subject to the pilot's expert judgment and ability to operate the aircraft under governing regulations.

#### **J. Medical**

Medical support must be available at the demonstration site. This includes an emergency response vehicle with an Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic (EMT-P) on site throughout the demonstration. Jumpers will not be allowed to exit the aircraft until this medical support is on location. The rescue vehicle must be equipped with a backboard, cervical collar, and oxygen. The advance representative would like to meet the medical staff once he/she arrives to ask/answer any questions and exchange contact information.

#### **K. Ground Support**

If there is a body of water within one mile of the drop zone, a rescue boat and two-person, crew must be located at the body of water for personnel recovery. Additionally, a mobile firefighting, crash unit and ground-to-air communications equipment must be on the drop zone for the duration of the demonstration. Adequate crowd control measure will also be required on the drop zone to ensure the landing area is clear. The minimum size landing area we can accept is 100 x 100 feet and must be free of obstacles to include people. We require that the sponsor provide a vehicle and one person to recover any canopy that may be jettisoned during any of our performances. The cutaway recovery person will be required to retrieve the jettisoned main parachute, should one of the jumpers have an actual parachute malfunction during the show. Please note, this coverage is only needed during the jumping portion of our show.

#### **L. VIP/Parking Passes**

It is necessary for the team to have full access passes for the entire event. This will allow the team to conduct all the preparation prior to and during the event. If you event is in a stadium, the ground crew will need access to the highest point in the venue to gather wind data for the jump. We ask that the parking passes allow us to park as close to the landing area as possible. The ground crew will have a large amount of equipment and even more once the jumpers are on the ground.

### **III. Demonstration Jumps**

Now for the primary reason we are here, making your show as memorable and exciting as possible.

To do this we have developed several demonstration options for you. Some of our capabilities are jumping flags, smoke, pyrotechnics, smoke chain, packing parachutes for the crowd, and narrating our performance. We can do a single jump or any combination of the jumps described below. Your options are many and we look forward to putting together the best performance possible for your audience.

As always, please contact us if you have any questions on what we are capable of doing at your event. We are constantly developing new ways to “WOW” your crowd, so please ask if you have seen something that is not listed here and we will do our best to accommodate your request. If we are doing multiple jumps for you on a given day, we ask that you give us a minimum of 90 minutes between the last jumper landing and the next take off time. If the team is going from a regular show to a combat equipment show, we will require an additional 30 minutes. This will allow us to first interact with your crowd and then prep our gear and conduct safety checks before executing the next show. This time may need to be adjusted depending on how close the airfield is from your event site.

#### **A. Opening Ceremony (10 minutes)**

A favorite at many events is our opening ceremony demonstration. This show is typically used as the starting point for an event. During this show we have a single or multiple jumpers exit an aircraft. Each jumper will exit the aircraft with red smoke so that your audience can see them throughout freefall and under canopy. Once they have reached their opening altitude the first jumper will fly the American Flag and smoke chain while under canopy. This is done with the National Anthem playing in the background. We also have a POW/MIA flag that can be flown by another jumper. If it is a single jumper, once on the ground he/she can become the narrator for other passes or a static narrator can be provided. We are honored to jump the US Flag, but if you have the anthem being performed by another group such as a color guard or Boy Scouts we will be more than happy to just jump our POW/MIA Flag as the opener.

## **B. Mass Exit (15 minutes)**

During our Mass Exit demonstration, all jumpers exit the aircraft at the same time. The jumpers will be equipped with red smoke canisters so they can be seen falling from high in the sky. Based upon the exit altitude they may join together in one of many large formations during freefall. At a pre-determined altitude, the jumpers will separate and track away from each other, creating a “bomb burst in the sky” and then deploy their parachutes. The jumpers will fly their canopies conducting various maneuvers such as spiraling down or following one behind the other until they land at a pre-determined spot right in front of the crowd or, in some cases, spread out along the show line.

## **C. Canopy Relative Work (CRW)**

The Canopy Relative Work show is always a crowd pleaser. It consists of two or more jumpers exiting an aircraft and opening their parachutes in close proximity. After opening they will link their canopies together to form many different types of canopy formations such as a Two-Stack, Three-Stack, Bi-Plane, Down-Plane, and the famous Tri-Bi-Side formation. In most cases, the jumpers will fly these formations all the way down and separate just feet from the ground and land safely on the target.

## **D. Military Combat Equipment (20 minutes)**

As the USASOC parachute team, we are the only team to incorporate real world mission jumps into our performance. This is a sobering show and demonstrates one of the many ways that Special Operations Forces may be inserted into a hostile environment. The team will perform a High Altitude Low Opening (HALO) jump. All the demonstrators will simultaneously exit the aircraft wearing military uniforms, oxygen masks, rucksacks, and simulated M-4 rifles. They will then fall to a pre-determined altitude and open their main parachutes. The last jumpers will fly with a POW/MIA flag in honor of all our fallen comrades. The demonstrators will land in a pre-determined location and simulate a tactical de-rig behind enemy lines. Once de-rigged, the jumpers will move as a small unit toward the crowd to be introduced by the narrator.

## **E. Night Pyrotechnics (20 minutes)**

Having a nighttime event and want to amaze your audience with fireworks falling from the sky? If so, the Night Pyrotechnics show is for you! This show starts with an aircraft flying through the sky seemingly on fire. The demonstrators then exit the aircraft with cold burning pyro. At a pre-determined altitude, the jumpers deploy their parachutes and fly like comets

through the air until landing right in front of the crowd. This show is a favorite and a sight to see for your audience.

#### **F. Narration**

We highly recommend that our shows be narrated. This can be accomplished in several different ways. If your show has a dedicated announcer or narrator then we will work with them and provide a script for use during our show. Each team members is trained in narrating each of our different shows and would be more than happy to stand in front of your crowd and tell them the story of what is happening in front of them. To make this happen, the sponsor must provide an adequate public address system capable of broadcasting to the entire audience. The system must also have the capability of connecting an iPod to allow the use of our background music. This is used to enhance our show and bring greater excitement to your event. A microphone must be in a location that provides the narrator with an unobstructed view of the entire drop zone and release point. A cordless microphone is preferred.

### **IV. Advertising and Public Affairs**

#### **A. Social Engagements**

The members of the USASOC Parachute Team are pleased to be involved in your event and are at your disposal. We will attend any social functions you have planned. Should you desire the team to attend your gathering, please inform the parachute team event coordinator or advance representative of the date, time, location, appropriate attire, as well as any special requests associated with the engagement. We are able to make presentations if you so desire.

Additionally, demonstrators will be available to interact with the crowd at your show. This can include handing out team memorabilia, signing autographs, packing parachutes in and with the crowd, speaking to groups such as ROTC, JROTC, etc. If you would like us to do any of these things, let us know and we will be more than happy to accommodate you. We would request that you provide an adequate number of table and chairs for these activities. If multiple jumps are requested for your event, it may not be possible to interact for long periods of time due to the need to repack and prepare for the next performance.

#### **B. Media, Advertising, and Public Affairs**

The U.S. Army Special Operations Command Public Affairs Office has produced a PR kit that contains a pre-event press release you may use to

announce the team appearance at your event, a video of the team in action, a fact sheet, a USASOC brochure, a team photograph, and poster. The packet may be sent electronically or mailed. Ms. Bonita Riddley is your point of contact. You can reach the Public Affairs Office by calling (910) 432-6005, or email [riddleyb@soc.mil](mailto:riddleyb@soc.mil). The PR kit is a great way to promote your event ahead of time and encourages wider attendance at your event.

At the end of each scheduled show, time permitting, the demonstrators will spend time with the spectators and give out information about the U.S. Army Special Operations Command. Team members will be available for pictures and the sign autographs.

In conclusion, thank you again for your interest in the USAOC Parachute Demonstration Team, the Black Daggers; we eagerly look forward to performing at your venue.